

1.5 28
3.2 25
3.6 22
2.0
8

**CIHM/ICMH
Microfiche
Series.**

**CIHM/ICMH
Collection de
microfiches.**



Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions / Institut canadien de microreproductions historiques

10

© 1981

Technical and Bibliographic Notes/Notes techniques et bibliographiques

The Institute has attempted to obtain the best original copy available for filming. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of filming, are checked below.

L'Institut a microfilmé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de filmage sont indiqués ci-dessous.

- Coloured covers/
Couverture de couleur
- Covers damaged/
Couverture endommagée
- Covers restored and/or laminated/
Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée
- Cover title missing/
Le titre de couverture manque
- Coloured maps/
Cartes géographiques en couleur
- Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black)/
Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire)
- Coloured plates and/or illustrations/
Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur
- Bound with other material/
Relié avec d'autres documents
- Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion along interior margin/
La reliure serrée peut causer de l'ombre ou de la distorsion le long de la marge intérieure
- Blank leaves added during restoration may appear within the text. Whenever possible, these have been omitted from filming/
Il se peut que certaines pages blanches ajoutées lors d'une restauration apparaissent dans le texte, mais, lorsque cela était possible, ces pages n'ont pas été filmées.
- Additional comments:/
Commentaires supplémentaires:

- Coloured pages/
Pages de couleur
- Pages damaged/
Pages endommagées
- Pages restored and/or laminated/
Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées
- Pages discoloured, stained or foxed/
Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées
- Pages detached/
Pages détachées
- Showthrough/
Transparence
- Quality of print varies/
Qualité inégale de l'impression
- Includes supplementary material/
Comprend du matériel supplémentaire
- Only edition available/
Seule édition disponible
- Pages wholly or partially obscured by errata slips, tissues, etc., have been refilmed to ensure the best possible image/
Les pages totalement ou partiellement obscurcies par un feuillet d'errata, une pelure, etc., ont été filmées à nouveau de façon à obtenir la meilleure image possible.

This item is filmed at the reduction ratio checked below/
Ce document est filmé au taux de réduction indiqué ci-dessous.

10X	14X	18X	22X	26X	30X
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12X	16X	20X	24X	28X	32X

The copy filmed here has been reproduced thanks to the generosity of:

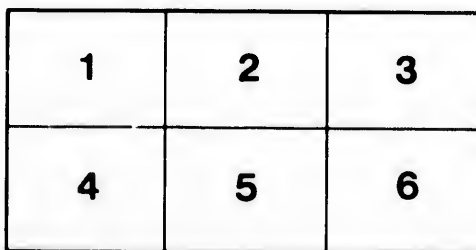
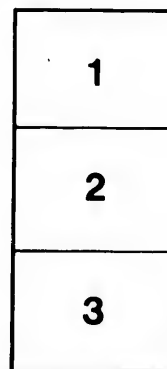
Library Division
Provincial Archives of British Columbia

The images appearing here are the best quality possible considering the condition and legibility of the original copy and in keeping with the filming contract specifications.

Original copies in printed paper covers are filmed beginning with the front cover and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression, or the back cover when appropriate. All other original copies are filmed beginning on the first page with a printed or illustrated impression, and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression.

The last recorded frame on each microfiche shall contain the symbol → (meaning "CONTINUED"), or the symbol ▼ (meaning "END"), whichever applies.

Maps, plates, charts, etc., may be filmed at different reduction ratios. Those too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom, as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method:



L'exemplaire filmé fut reproduit grâce à la générosité de:

Library Division
Provincial Archives of British Columbia

Les images suivantes ont été reproduites avec le plus grand soin, compte tenu de la condition et de la netteté de l'exemplaire filmé, et en conformité avec les conditions du contrat de filmage.

Les exemplaires originaux dont la couverture en papier est imprimée sont filmés en commençant par le premier plat et en terminant soit par la dernière page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration, soit par le second plat, selon le cas. Tous les autres exemplaires originaux sont filmés en commençant par la première page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration et en terminant par la dernière page qui comporte une telle empreinte.

Un des symboles suivants apparaîtra sur la dernière image de chaque microfiche, selon le cas: le symbole → signifie "A SUIVRE", le symbole ▼ signifie "FIN".

Les cartes, planches, tableaux, etc., peuvent être filmés à des taux de réduction différents. Lorsque le document est trop grand pour être reproduit en un seul cliché, il est filmé à partir de l'angle supérieur gauche, de gauche à droite, et de haut en bas, en prenant le nombre d'images nécessaire. Les diagrammes suivants illustrent la méthode.

ails
du
modifier
une
page

rata
D

elure,
à

NWP
972.17
086

KLONDIKE AND CLIMATIC REFLECTIONS.

THE astronomer Flammarion proves that our sun is dying of spontaneous combustion, and that all life on earth will ultimately perish in frost, but mitigates the alarm of his readers by adding that the store of solar fuel may suffice to supply the planetary markets for the next five hundred million years.

A more serious risk is the possibility that civilization will push up north beyond the point where human nature can stand the strain of overwork and the weight of overcoats. "Freight bicycles" will only postpone the impending collapse. The leaders of progress have long passed the latitude of fitful winter rains, and are fast approaching a region where their advance will be hampered by perpetual snow blockades.

And there seems no prospect of a reaction, corresponding to the reflux tide of migration from the far West to the less arid East. More than four hundred years ago Montaigne consoled a Spanish refugee with the remark that "we might as well recognize the fact that civilized man is becoming a fur-clad animal," but the hegira from the ancient birthlands of culture began before the foundation of Rome. Ever since the head-quarters of science were removed from Egypt to Greece, the centres of civilization have advanced towards the north pole,—from Athens to Rome, to Genoa, Venice, Paris, London, Berlin, and Edinburgh, and on our side of the Atlantic, where no persecution urged the exodus, from the paradise of the southern Alleghanies to the frozen swamps of Lake Michigan.

The discovery of America has also refuted the idea that the poleward migration was an inevitable result of the gradual exhaustion of the summer-land regions. The Eden of the South American tropics attracted chiefly gold-seekers, while home-seekers struggled for the privilege of freezing their ears in the haunts of the grizzly bear, and even within the limits of our own national territory the luxury of a steer-killing blizzard has been an inducement outweighing the advantages of cheap land and free fuel, November picnics and March strawberries. "Good vinclands" are not appreciated below the latitude of the New England fox-grape: in a gift-distribution of free homestead grants the four rivers of Paradise would be rejected as streams that "won't cut much ice." The fascination of a new colony seems to depend on the grip of its winter frosts.

What does it all mean? Have the muses fallen in love with Hrymir, the old Scandinavian ice-demon, or is the blizzard ordeal a test of superior fitness, like the initiation torments of the Sioux aristocracy?

The philosopher Haller, who never ceased to pine for the garden-land of the southern Alps, nevertheless maintained that any maniac who should take it into his head to plant a city in a Finland snow-moor would compel his ambitious contemporaries to imitate his ex-

ample, "because," he says, "the portentous stimulus of a northern climate will develop ingenuity and energy beyond all normal limits, and those who have succeeded in pushing to the front under such circumstances will easily distance the world of the more easy-going latitudes, and thus oblige their southern competitors to clamber up the pole in self-defence."

He also speaks of the "sifting process of a constant northward migration," and a temperature of twenty-five degrees below zero does have a tendency to freeze out tramps—though they all come back in June; but it may also result in the permanent suppression of various breeds of microbes, and thus furnish the main key to the enigma of the snow-land craze.

Not as if perfect health were incompatible with a climate of perpetual summer; on the contrary, the hope of attaining the age of the patriarchs has probably been forfeited together with our tenure of the primeval tropics; but, given our preference for non-natural articles of food and modes of existence, our chance of survival seems to improve with every degree farther up north. A Canadian hunter can digest a quantum of fried pork that would kill six Hindoos. The same dose of alcohol that would make a Malay run amuck like a mad wolf will afflict the Muscovite boor only with a fit of maudlin sentimentality. Habitual in-door life on the Gulf of Naples breeds lung-microbes that defy all the specifics of Staats-Ober-Medicinal-Rath Koch, but the gales that fan the cradle of the Missouri expurgate the sick-room atmosphere in spite of double windows and weather-strips. Frost is a foe of organic life, but for that very reason it is the most efficient antidote. Hrymir, the Norse Boreas, is the champion microbe-killer and the patron saint of dyspeptics.

"With your predilection for dark-eyed beauty, you ought to try your luck in Spanish America," says the Mexican visitor.

"I have often thought of that," replies the Chicago Don Juan, "but" (in a whisper) "a fellow wants to stay where he can get a divorce once in a while;" and, with all their appreciation of French cookery, our epicures prefer to remain where they can recover from made dishes. When Arctic voyages have been divested of their discomforts, Melville Island will perhaps attract more *bona fide* health-seekers than the summer archipelago of the Bahamas.

From that point of view the Klondike experiment assumes a more than mineralogical interest. Winter oranges are peddled in St. Paul, and the scream of the iron horse has silenced the howls of the Manitoba snow-wolves; but this is the first time in the history of pioneer enterprise that Caucasian civilization has tried to push its outposts beyond the parallel of northernmost Labrador. Squatters who had built tabernacles in the uplands of the Black Hills and braved the ice tornadoes of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, turned pale at the mere mention of Hudson's Bay Territory and Lake Winnipeg; but Klondike is seven hundred and fifty miles farther north than that lake; it is as far north of Boston as Boston is of Key West, and much farther north from Philadelphia than Philadelphia is from the city of Mexico.

"If this is freedom, I prefer slavery and pear-trees," said a com-

panion of Jacques Cartier when his orchard froze on the lower St. Lawrence; but, compared with Dawson City, Quebec is a tropical pleasure-resort.

Yet who knows if the mother of inventions will not hatch contrivances that may render the valley of the Yukon as habitable as the valley of the Vistula, "once studded with fir woods, and now with prosperous villages"?

There was a time when the Romans considered the Caucasus an unfit habitation for a civilized human being; and the poet Ovid, in his exile at Tomi, on the shores of the Euxine, complained of more shivers than a Russian reformer in an Irkutskaya snow-bank. Germany his countrymen described as a land "horrid with frozen pines." They relaxed their precautions against desertion when their legions ventured into the wilderness north of the Danube, not thinking it possible that a sane human being would run the risk of getting left behind in a country where the very bears had to crawl under ground in winter.

And northern winters must, indeed, have scared the wits out of thin-skinned settlers before the terrors of an ice-storm had been modified by the invention of chimney-flues. The ancient Italian plan of counteracting a frost was to fill a brazier with glowing charcoal and carry it into a corner of the parlor where my lady and her visitors wished to warm their delicate hands. The converts of Cato considered it manly to get along with a minimum of such artifices, and Juvenal mentions an old sinner who dispensed with braziers altogether and admonished his shivering servants to remember that "the grasshoppers would soon be back."

Lamps at that time were not much better than pitchwood torches, and smoked so intolerably that aesthetic citizens generally went to bed at sundown, if the state of the weather did not favor the alternative of a moonlight promenade. In sleepless nights, Caligula, the master of the civilized universe, used to run up and down his marble halls, "passionately invoking the dawn of the morning." Goethe perpetrated a doggerel advising inventors to drop *perpetuum mobile* and devote their talents to the construction of candles that would burn without needing to be snuffed every few minutes.

Lamp-chimneys, indeed, were invented only ninety years ago in French Switzerland, and chimney-flues A.D. 1500, or soon after, in Venice (then a metropolis of luxuries). For millions of square miles in the wilderness of winter-lands those two inventions have done what the invention of the steamboat did for the island-world of the South Sea. A man whose means permit him to bring the implements of artificial summer along can often live more comfortably in Canada than in Brazil, where, according to Sydney Smith's account of Waterton's experiences, "a man risks to be wounded by some representative of insect life every minute of the twenty-four hours, and bugs with seven wings are struggling in the teacup while a nondescript with nine eyes in its belly is hastening across the bread-and-butter."

The difficulty of suppressing such intruders may explain a mysterious old proverb to the effect that "no man should hope to live under palms with impunity" (though Prince de Ligne suspects an allusion to

the temptation of southern vices); but it must be admitted that the privilege of living under Canadian pines has often to be bought at a fearful price of toil. The prerogative of defying Nature for six months in the year has to be paid for in some way or other; the northward migration of civilized mankind has for millions reduced life to an alternation of drudgery and troubled dreams.

The Roman Cæsars, it is true, paid half the expenses of those free circus games, celebrated sixteen times a month, for a series of centuries; but the Italian climate paid the other half. The ruins of stupendous arenas are found all along the shores of the Mediterranean, and may have contributed to the ruin of their patrons; but the fact remains that the "flight to the freedom of the hardy North" has transferred a large percentage of the refugees from a merry-go-round to a treadmill.

Incidentally, however, it has reclaimed some fourteen million square miles of bear-woods: inventions upon inventions have reduced impossibilities to mere difficulties, and may yet reduce difficulties to a comfortable minimum. Who knows if the exigencies of a Klondike winter may not solve the problem of economizing that eighty-five per cent. of stove-heat which on the present plan is permitted to escape through the chimney-flue, or help to introduce light yet calorific dry-goods that can be warranted to resist Arctic blizzards as the mysterious mail coats of Herr Dove resist rifle-bullets? More than ten years ago an ingenious Netherlander called attention to the fact that a linen blouse, ruffled, *i.e.*, puckered up in a multitude of little folds, and enclosed between sheets of ordinary linen, is warmer than a four times heavier coat of broadcloth, and that two such blouses—still as light as a jacket—will make their owner almost weather-proof; but the caprices of fashion did not favor the innovation. Alaska winters might counteract such prejudices by favoring the survival of the fittest, regardless of tailor fits, and create a demand for the "night-sacks" that enabled Captain Marshall to bivouac among the glaciers of the eastern Caucasus. Professor Tyndall, after a sojourn in a moss-stuffed *chalet* of the Engadine, recommends a plan of building winter dwellings with double board walls, stuffed with a mixture of sea-grass and paper-mill waste, after impregnating both the wood and the padding with one of those numerous cheap solutions that will make cotton rags as non-combustible as woven asbestos. To a brick house, he says, a building of that sort would be as superior for protective purposes as a heavy woollen blanket to a bed-cover of potsherds, and a Yukon Valley settler who should adopt that suggestion may actually get along with less fuel than the proprietor of an old-plan dwelling on the lower Mississippi.

Experiments may also introduce a multitude of grains and berries, if not of tree-fruits, that could be made to ripen a crop in the short summers of eastern Alaska. Potatoes, "Irish," so called, but actually Peruvian, have been modified by artificial selection till they now thrive six thousand miles north of their original home, and the success of a new variety in the Klondike Valley would settle the question of survival for countless squatters in the midland region of British North America.

Steam locomotives will encounter unheard-of difficulties in the Alaska strongholds of the frost demons, but the risk of a snow

blockade may be greatly lessened by Major Cridland's simple expedient of building railways on a continuous line of low trestles, almost safe from ordinary snow-drifts, and much cheaper than the bulky snow-sheds of the California sierras.

In that way upper Alaska may become fairly habitable, and

Those who the heights and depths have seen
Must needs know all that lies between.

The wilderness of the midway North will ripen a crop of big cities, and believers in the eternal fitness of things will begin to understand why both Asia and North America attain their maximum breadth near the fiftieth degree of north latitude.

But city life, already so indescribably complex, will become more artificial than ever, more dependent upon a multitude of "modern conveniences," apt to get out of order at inconvenient moments.

Shall we venture a peep through the keyhole of the future?

"DAWSON CITY, March 4, 1948.

"During the second act of the Gypsies' Opera some fiend in human shape turned off the hot-air pipes in the basement of the Shetland Building, and before the mischief could be remedied the monkeys of the actor representing the organ-grinder succumbed to the chill, and several ladies had to be carried out with frozen toes."

"March 21.

"The burglars who forced the safe of the Northwestern Fur Company were tracked to 409 Kamschatka Street, and the proceeds of the robbery are supposed to have been buried in the yard adjoining the building; but, as the ground is now frozen to a depth of twenty-five feet, investigations will have to be postponed till June, unless the mayor should decide to procure a train of gravel-smelters from Sitka."

"April 10.

"The delivery-wagon of the Crystal Water Company experienced another *glissade* near Hekla Terrace, and some sixty balls of ice rolled down-hill before the reindeers could be stopped."

Felix L. Oswald.

THE UNDERTONE OF PAIN.

O EARTH, thy carpet is so green to-day,
I would forget the graves it hides away;
I would not hear the sighs of grief and care
That tremble in thy balmy, sunlit air.

But Nature's touch upon the soul within
Is as the master hand on violin;
And through thy music's softest, sweetest strain
There throbs an endless undertone of pain.

Currie Blake Morgan.

